

erable study, believes the Cuban *X. conocephala* Sauv. (proposed as a substitute by Dr. Rendle) distinct from the North American pine-barren species.

COLLEGE POINT, NEW YORK.

## PROCEEDINGS OF THE CLUB.

TUESDAY, MAY 9, 1905.

This meeting was held in the afternoon at the N. Y. Botanical Garden, President Rusby in the chair and 42 members and visitors present.

Miss Caroline R. Dana, of Newark, and Dr. Wilhelm K. Kubin, of New York, were elected to membership.

The meeting was devoted to the exhibition and discussion of the various forms of American violets.

The following persons exhibited living material: A. Cuthbert, Augusta, Ga., *Viola Carolina*; C. D. Beadle, Biltmore, N. C., *V. villosa* and *V. tripartita*; F. M. Rolfs, Lake City, Fla., *V. multicaulis* and *V. Carolina*; President Ezra Brainerd, Middlebury, Vt., *V. septentrionalis*, *V. Brainerdi*, *V. LeConteana*, *V. rotundifolia*, *V. rostrata* and *V. arcnaria*; Geo. E. Osterhout, New Windsor, Col., *V. nephrophylla*, *V. retusa* and *V. Nutallii*; Miss F. A. Mulford, Hempstead, N. Y., *V. pedata*, *V. Mulfordae*, *V. Brittoniana* and *V. sagittata*; Professor H. H. Rusby, Forest Hill, N. J., *V. villosa*, *V. sagittata*, *V. palmata*, *V. pubescens*, *V. scabriuscula*, *V. cucullata* and *V. labradorica*; Miss Lillie Angell, Orange, N. J., *V. Angellae*; Miss Delia W. Marble, Bedford, N. Y., *V. pubescens*, *V. papilionacea*, *V. palmata*, *V. cucullata* and *V. blanda*; Dr. J. Schneck, Mount Carmel, Ills., *V. striata*, *V. papilionacea* (three forms), and *V. Rafinesquii*; R. C. Schneider, *V. lanceolata*; Percy Wilson, *V. cucullata*, *V. papilionacea*, *V. lanceolata*, *V. rotundifolia*, *V. scabriuscula*, *V. pubescens*, *V. labradorica*, *V. fimbriatula* and *V. palmata*; Quercus Shafer, *V. palmata*, *V. cucullata*, *V. obliqua* and *V. blanda*; and W. W. Eggleston, *V. obliqua*, *V. palmata*, *V. sororia*, *V. cucullata*, *V. Porteriana*, *V. fimbriatula* and *V. palmata*.

Extensive herbarium material was also exhibited.

The discussion was opened by Dr. N. L. Britton who spoke of the recent specific differentiations by various authors. He was of the opinion that many of these were doubtful and that while we had perhaps twice as many good species as were recognized in Gray's time, we have only about half as many species as have been proposed. The speaker then gave a general sketch of the group, noting that while preëminently north temperate they extend into the southern hemisphere along the highlands in both the Orient and the Occident. There is only a single endemic and one introduced species known from the West Indies. Mexico furnishes perhaps half a dozen species, and there are numerous species in the highlands of South America. Our violets fall naturally into two habit groups, the acaulescent and the stemmed. A rather common character is the occurrence of cleistogamic flowers, which are borne on horizontal or erect scapes according to the species. The speaker passed the various species in review, paying particular attention to those of eastern North America.

Stewardson Brown, of the Philadelphia Botanical Club, was called upon to review Dr. Britton's remarks. He said that in the main he agreed with Dr. Britton's views of specific validity. He called attention to a form from the vicinity of Philadelphia which Stone recently identified as *Viola septemloba* LeConte, of the *palmata* group, and which the speaker believed to be something different. Attention was directed also to *Viola obliqua*, one of the earliest and most abundant violets in the Philadelphia region. The speaker described the *sagittata-fimbriatula* group as one of the most intergraded and least understood of any of the groups of acaulescent blue violets.

Continuing the discussion, W. W. Eggleston mentioned the occurrence of what he believed to be a hybrid form. He also called attention to President Brainerd's methods of studying violets under cultivation and observing their fruit characters.

L. H. Lighthipe discussed *Viola Angellae*, holding it to be distinct from *Viola palmata*, the differences showing in the character of the flowers and of the summer leaves. Miss Angell, who was present, told of her studies of this species and called

attention to the extraordinary size of the summer leaves. Dr. Rusby in the course of his remarks mentioned a very early form which is apparently the variety *cordata* of *Viola cucullata* of Gray. This form has been studied extensively by Miss Sanial, one of the club members.

Dr. Rydberg spoke of the violets of the Rocky Mountain region, passing in review the various species from that section and directing attention to the occurrence of the common European *Viola biflora*, which reappears in Colorado.

Dr. Shull spoke of the difficulty he had experienced in germinating violet seeds, and in the discussion it was brought out that violet seeds are apt to lose their vitality upon drying.

Dr. MacDougal spoke of the difficulties attendant upon mutation experiments with the violets, and advocated experiments to test any possible theories as to hybrids.

After some further discussion by Dr. Britton and others, this most interesting meeting was brought to a close.

EDWARD W. BERRY,  
*Secretary.*

#### NEWS ITEMS

Dr. and Mrs. N. L. Britton returned from their European trip on July 15.

We are informed that the death of Mr. Henry Eggert of East St. Louis, Illinois, who was well known as a botanical collector, occurred a year ago last April.

Mr. George V. Nash and Mr. Norman Taylor of the New York Botanical Garden sailed on July 6 to spend several weeks in making botanical collections in Haïti.

It is stated in a recent number of *Science* that Frederick C. Newcombe has been appointed professor of botany, and Charles A. Davis curator of the herbarium at the University of Michigan.

It is stated in the *Stanford Alumnus* that Dr. E. B. Copeland, who has been engaged in botanical work in the Philippines for about two years, has resigned his position there and will return to the United States this summer.

Dr. William C. Coker, professor of botany in the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, N. C. ; Dr. Raymond H. Pond,